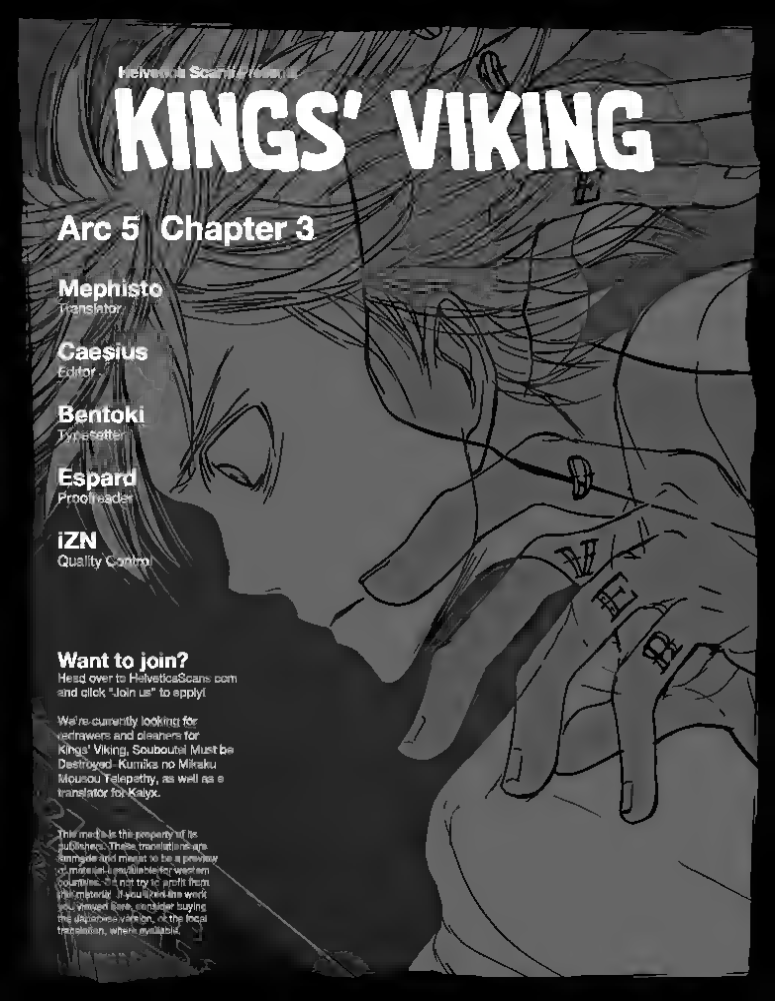
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BANG

MOVING THE REMAINING MONEY FROM HERE TO THIS BANK ACCOUNT OVER HERE

THEN USING THIS TO PAY FOR THE SERVER. .

BANG

HEY EVERYONE WHO LIVES HERE! YOU GUYS KNOW THAT SAKAI DAISUKE, DOESN'T RETURN THE THINGS HE BORROWS?!

SAKAI DAISUKE! WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! YOU WANT US TO BREAK THIS DOOR DOWN?!

BANG

OPEN

TEAR TEAR

BANG BANG

IF YOU DON'T SHOW UP THE NEXT TIME WE COME CALLING, YOU'RE A DEAD MAN SAKAI!

LOAN AGREEMENT

2
RIP

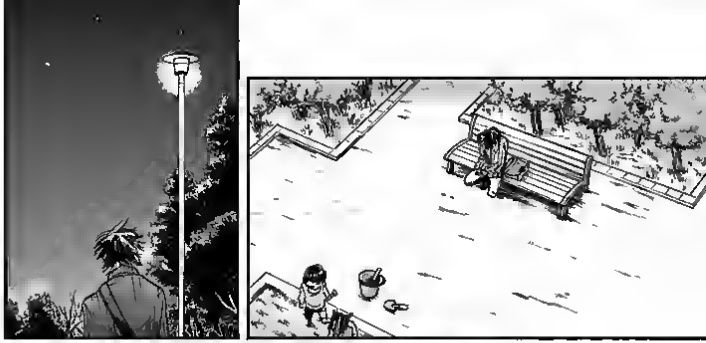
SHUT

MOR-
NIN...
WHAT? YOU GUYS CANCELLED THE LEASES ON YOUR APART-MENTS?

TRASH inc

PLEASE DON'T TELL DAISUKE, IT'LL ONLY MAKE HIM UPSET.
WE ALWAYS SLEEP HERE, INSTEAD OF GOING HOME ANYWAYS
AS LONG AS WE HAVE ENOUGH TO PAY RENT, WE CAN GET BY!
ANYWAYS, YOU CAN CUT OUR SALARIES IN HALF.

TRASH inc
YOU GUYS...



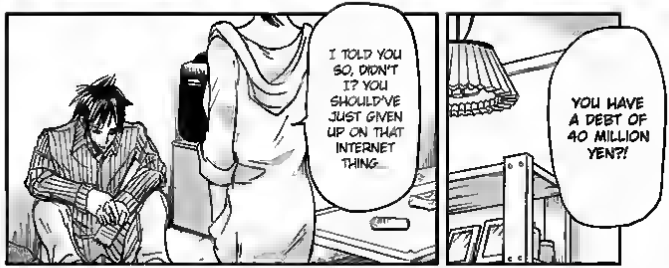
WHAT? WHO WOULD COME CALLING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
DING DONG

THIS IS KIND OF FREAKY

WOAH —!

I HAVE A POLICY OF NOT LETTING MY EX-BOYFRIENDS INTO MY APARTMENT
WHO IS IT?
YOU KNOW WHO I AM. LET ME IN.
PFFT
YOU HAVE PLENTY OF OTHER WOMEN WHO WILL LET YOU STAY OVER DON'T YOU?
SORRY FOR DISTURBING YOU
I JUST WANTED TO TALK A LITTLE, BUT I'LL COME BACK ANOTHER TIME.
YEAH
IT'S BEEN A YEAR, BUT I'M RELIEVED TO SEE THAT YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.

THAT ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL.
OPEN


I TOLD YOU SO, DIDN'T I? YOU SHOULD'VE JUST GIVEN UP ON THAT INTERNET THING...
YOU HAVE A DEBT OF 40 MILLION YEN?!

REMEMBER HOW WHEN WE FIRST STARTED RUNNING THE WEBSITE, IT WAS JUST A SIDE JOB IN ADDITION TO OUR NORMAL JOBS? WELL, THE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS USING OUR SITE JUST KEPT INCREASING, SO WE DECIDED TO GO FOR IT...
WE QUIT OUR JOBS AND BEGAN A STARTUP COMPANY

USING THE MONEY WE HAD SAVED UP FROM OUR PREVIOUS JOBS, WE RENTED AN OFFICE
WE SHIFTED THE FOCUS OF OUR SITE TO SPECIALIZING IN SELLING DVDS OF MINOR OVERSEAS FILMS. WE'LL BE ENTERING THE ERA OF DVDS SOON AFTER ALL

VIDEODROME
first it controls your mind
EVERY-THING WAS GOING TOO WELL. FAR TOO WELL...
HOWEVER... WE SPENT TOO MUCH MONEY ON ADVERTISING

HAHAHA... WE GOT REELED IN BY A SHADY BUSINESSMAN WHO WAS ALL TALK. LEAVING US PENNILESS
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, RIGHT? DESPITE THE FACT OUR BUSINESS OPERATIONS ARE STILL OPERATING PERFECTLY SMOOTHLY
AND WELL YESTER-DAY... IT ALL FINALLY CAME TO A HEAD

GRAB
HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
DIDN'T WE AGREE THAT WE WOULDN'T CHANGE HOW THINGS OPERATED?!
8
WASN'T THIS YOUR IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE? I'M DOING THIS TO MAKE OUR WEBSITE MORE USER FRIENDLY—
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE MESSING WITH THAT! WE NEED TO PRIORITIZE CLOSING THE CURRENTLY PENDING TRANSACTIONS!

IF WE DON'T TACKLE THE ISSUE OF "SOMETHING LIKE THAT" THEN THIS COMPANY IS GOING TO DROWN!!
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE!
PRIORITIZING AND SPENDING OUR TIME ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT, RESULTING IN OUR SITE SHRINKING, IS PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE!
ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE THERE IS SOME BASIC DATA ENTRY WORK.
FINE, IF YOU WANT TO DESTROY THIS COMPANY, THEN DO AS YOU LIKE YOU MORON!!
Sigh
THERE'S NO NEED TO FEEL GUILTY. THIS DECISION WILL AFFECT WHETHER OR NOT YOU'LL CONTINUE TO BE ABLE TO PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE.
IF YOU WANT TO PULL OUT, THEN TELL ME NOW.
THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY. SO LET'S DO THIS NOW.

GLARE
I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT "IT ISN'T ABOUT THE MONEY." HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

AT MY PREVIOUS JOB, IT FELT LIKE I WAS LOCKED IN PLACE, UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING AT ALL. IT FELT LIKE I WAS ALREADY DEAD, BECAUSE I WAS DEFINITELY NOT ALIVE.
YOU DON'T QUESTION THE METHODS YOU NEED TO USE TO REACH YOUR GOALS.
YOUR IDEAS ARE NOT GROUNDED IN REALITY AND YOU DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT ANYONE ELSE HAS TO SAY.

HOWEVER, EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO RESIGN, I REFUSE TO QUIT!
BECAUSE I'VE FINALLY DISCOVERED A PLACE WHERE I CAN DO THE WORK THAT I WANT TO DO!
I'M STAYING AS WELL
IF WAS GOING TO QUIT, I WOULD'VE QUIT A LONG TIME AGO
YOUR VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE MAKE MY HEART START RACING.
THE EXCITEMENT I FEEL TOWARDS WHAT WE'RE DOING, HASN'T CHANGED A BIT.

HEY, MORON.
DON'T LET THEIR KIND WORDS GET TO YOUR HEAD.
I'M NOT GOING TO QUIT.
VIDEODROME
AS THE PRESIDENT IF YOU DON'T FEEL BEATEN AND EXHAUSTED RUNNING AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE THEN YOU AREN'T WORKING HARD ENOUGH
YOU FEEL BEATEN UP AND EXHAUSTED OF COURSE YOU DO
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE PRESIDENT

THIS COMPANY YOU FOUNDED IS A LIFE YOU BROUGHT INTO THIS WORLD, DAISUKE.
THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO END IT, IS YOU.
First it controls your mind
THAT WAS STUPID OF ME. LET'S GET TO WORK.
YOU SEE...

TODAY... I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ENTER THE OFFICE...

THE ONLY REASON I'M ABLE TO CONTINUE STRIVING FORWARD, IS BECAUSE THOSE GUYS ARE THERE FOR ME
HOWEVER, IT'S ALSO MY FAULT THAT THEY'VE CONTINUED TO PURSUE THIS VENTURE...

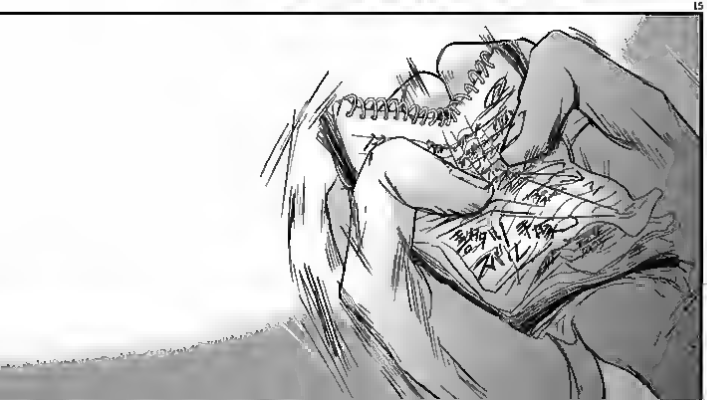
14

THE LOAN COMPANIES WERE THE ONLY OPTION LEFT.
NONE OF THE BANKS WERE WILLING TO LEND THEIR HELP PURSUING THE FUTURE THIS BUSINESS IS ATTEMPTING TO REACH

AKARI ...I'M SCARED.

I'M SCARED OF MONEY DISAPPEARING LIKE WATER DOWN A DRAIN... I'M ALSO SCARED OF THE YELLING AND SCREAMING OF THE DEBT COLLECTORS...

HOW-EVER, THE THING THAT SCARES ME THE MOST...
IS THAT THE SYSTEM THAT THEY'VE PUT ALL THEIR HEART INTO CREATING, WILL DIE IN A DITCH AND VANISH.



I CAN'T HELP BUT BE FRUSTRATED AT HOW POWER-LESS I AM.

FOR NOW, HAVE A DRINK, PRESIDENT.
PSH

RIN BEER

BUSINESS ECONOMICS
FINANCIAL WEEKLY
AKARI! THANK YOU!
INVESTMENT FUND / COMPANY "VENTURE CAPITAL". A NEW WAVE OF INVESTMENT.
Searching for unlisted companies with a high rate of growth and aggressive investment

I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT DO YOUR BEST!
NEXT TIME YOU SHOW UP, IT BETTER BE IN A FANCY SUIT!
YOU GOT IT!

Investment Fund Venture Capital
I'VE ALREADY FALLEN AS FAR AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE. AT THIS POINT, I DON'T CARE IF I HAVE TO SELL MY SOUL TO THE DEVIL HIMSELF!
OPEN